



**Child Care costs in Louisiana are a major concern for families with young children. The rising cost of quality care has become a burden for many families.**

- The average annual cost of infant care in Louisiana is **\$10,847** (up from \$7,724 in 2023)—that’s **\$904** per month.
- Child Care for a 4-year-old costs **\$9,378** (up from \$6,906 in 2023), or **\$782** each month.

**Infant: \$904 / \$10,847**

**Toddler: \$833 / \$9,997**

**3-Year-Old: \$782 / \$9,378**

- Child Care costs in Louisiana exceed 10% of a typical household’s income, which is well above the federal 7% guideline. Even a four-year-old’s care can top \$9,300 a year, making budgeting a real challenge.
- The Louisiana Early Childhood Education (ECE) Fund provides a dollar-for-dollar state match to local investments in early childhood care and education, effectively doubling local funding to expand access and quality.
- The Louisiana ECE Fund was established by the state legislature in 2017 and further defined in 2019 to incentivize local investment in early childhood education by providing a state match for locally raised funds. Administered by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), the fund aims to expand high quality early learning opportunities, particularly for children from low-income families, including those eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). The fund prioritizes children ages birth through two in Type III early learning centers.